

The rubbing process could also be applied to the surface to make it smooth instead of leaving it as it was after the flaking process. The processes of striking and pressing were also combined. The pebble was broken by blows and the pieces were further reduced to shape by the pressing process. Different devices were also invented for holding the stone securely and in the proper position. Skill and judgment in perceiving how and for what purpose each pebble could best be treated was developed by the workers, and division of labor arose amongst them as some acquired greater skill in one operation and others in another. The operations of pressing and striking were also made complex in order to accomplish what was desired. A sapling was cut off so that the stump of a limb was left at the bottom of it. It was set against the spot where the force was needed, and a blow struck in the crotch of the limb caused the chip to fly. This apparatus was improved and refined by putting a horn tip on the end point of contact. Another device was to cut a notch in a tree trunk, which could be used as a fulcrum. A long lever was used to apply the pressure to the stone laid at the root of the tree, or on the horizontal space at the bottom of the notch.¹ These variations show persistent endeavor to get control of the necessary force and to apply it at the proper point with the least chance for error and loss. Buckley reported about the "tomahawks" of the aborigines of Victoria, that the stone was split into pieces, without regard to their shape, but of convenient thickness. A piece was rubbed on rough granite until "it is brought to a very fine thin edge, and so hard and sharp as to enable them to fell a very large tree with it." The handles are "thick pieces of wood, split and

then doubled
 up, the stone being in the bend and fixed with
 gum, very care-
 fully prepared for the purpose, so as to make it
 perfectly secure
 when bound round with sinews." ² The natives of the
 Admiralty
 Islands use obsidian which is dug from layers in
 the ground.
 Only a few know the art of making axes, and they
 prosecute it
 as a means of livelihood. Skill is required especially
 to judge of
 the way in which the stone will split. The only
 tool is a stone

¹ *Smithson. Rep* ^ 1885, Part I, 874, 882; *Ibid** 1887,
 Part I, 601.

² *Smyth, Aborig. of Victoria** I, 359.